1916

? 6 Aug

Asheham,

Sunday

Dearest,

I went into the shops at Firle the other day, & the man took me for you, & said you owed him 17/6 for ~~milk~~ butter which he sent you to Gordon Sq^re. 2 years ago. He was rather cross. – I said I would send you the bill, & that you would certainly pay at once, if correct.

Vivian Nevinson, Leonard & Alix S. F. are all playing Bad Bridge & making such a babble I can hardly write.

I sent Julian a silkwinder, which I hope will make silk dresses for us all.

Yours V.W.

(Wednesday)

1906

Asheham,

16th Aug.

Dearest,

I suppose you are still in the flesh at Wiseth — such as there is yet. I go think you ought to drink more milk. Leonard thought you had grown much thinner — so did some one else. You are always on the trot, if not gallop. Please take 2 glasses a Keep well, for love of me. Duncan also is said to look ill. Your life may be spared without your knowing it, owing to the difference between it & Gordon Square. Here I lie in bed, 12 AM, a glass of milk by my side. Moore & Leonard on the terrace, & Pernel deep in the very latest book — We are once more in domestic difficulties. After saying the weeks was quite content, Nelly told me two days ago that the finds Asheham too depressing to stay, & though Lottie would

stay with her, she won't without her. They like Richmond, & it's only a question of Arbraham, but it seems to me too difficult to arrange to get different people every time we come here; so I must find a new couple by Oct. 1st. Do you think there is any chance that Blanche & Jessie would come, if Maynard doesn't take Gordon Square? Or, if he does, what sort of person is Miss Chapman? Would she come as Cook? I should be very grateful if you would answer as soon as possible about Blanche & Jessie, as I foresee we shall have difficulties in getting anyone. I have been considering the question of having Sophy back. She wrote me another melancholy letter the other day, but I daresay she would prefer to stay with Aunt Minna in H. P. G. to coming out to Richmond, & being rather humble. Also, I don't know whether she would be very expensive — in weekly books I mean, for the expense of a stopper isn't much — & very tyrannical. I wish you would give me your sage advice on the subject. Lottie cheerfully says we shall find no one who likes Richmond & Arbraham; & of course Arbraham, without the train, & no shops sending out, is very lonely, if one doesn't care for the country.

NYPL

Sydney Waterlow has invited himself to stay here at the end of the month, so I will tell him about Gower St. – but you'd better tell me the rent, & the exact address – Adrian & Karin were here the other day, & went to see Charleston, which they liked so much that they are going to take it, & let it for the first year, probably to the Squires – I wish you'd taken it. I suppose you've heard that they've settled at Cheltenham, with 6 C.Os, near the Wilmans. Leonard has just been offered the Secretaryship of the National Council for Liberty (that isn't quite the right name) – the thing Langdon Davies runs; they offer £3 or £400 a year, but it doesn't seem worth while if he has to go there all day & every day. I think he is going to offer to run it with a secretary under him, going 3 days a week; but that mayn't be possible. I should find it very dull if he were out all day, & it would mean that he gave up all his other work. Then we have heard ya hoare in Maids of Honour Row on the green, & Leonard is a good deal in favour of moving, because they are lovely houses with gardens, & perfect quiet, no further from the station than we are; but I don't know that

they are really so much better than Hogarth to make the more worth while.

Alix S.F. was here the other day. She seemed to me to talk without ceasing, very positive & intelligent, & liking serious arguments, as we did in youth. & letting no vague statement pass without Examination. I gathered a few crumbs for you — Chiefly about Dobbin, who was set to paint frescoes with Mr. S.F.; & bored her to death. Dobbin's work had to be painted over mostly when she left. It is thought that she is taking up literature instead of painting, having married a literary & very nervous man, who has to live in the country. My God! what colours you are responsible for! Loving clothes almost wrenched my eyes from the sockets — a ☨ skirt barred with reds & yellows of the vilest kind, & a pea green blouse on top, with a gaudy handkerchief on her head, supposed to be the very boldest taste. I shall retire into dove colour & old lavender, with a lace collar, & lawn wristlets.

Please write as soon as you can.

Yr B.

NYPL

HANLEY 12/29/69

they are really so much better than Stogarth to make the more worth while.

Alex S.F. was here the other day. She seemed to me to talk without ceasing, very positive & intelligent, & liking serious arguments, as we did in youth. & letting no vague statement pass without examination. I gathered a few crumbs for you — Chiefly about Dobbin, who was set to paint frescoes with Mr. S.F; & bored her to death. Dobbins work had to be painted over mostly when she left. It is thought that she is taking up literature instead of painting, having married a literary & very nervous man, who has to live in the country. My God! what colours you are responsible for! Karins clothes almost wrenched my eyes from the sockets — a ☨ skirt barred with reds & yellows of the vilest kind, & a pea green blouse on top, with a gaudy handkerchief on her head, supposed to be the very boldest fashion. I shall retire into dove colour & old lavender, with a lace collar, & lawn wristlets.

Please write as soon as you can.

Yr B.

NYPL

HAMILL 12/29/69

3 June 1916

(25 August)

Asheham.

Friday,

Dearest,

Its no good sending me a postal order which I can only cash at Winett, you foolish animal! Will you give it to Quentin for a birthday present, as I had meant to send him one; & then we shall be quits.

I wrote to Sophy, asking her to come back, & offering a kitchen maid, & got a fearful snubbing! She said she had been very unhappy when Mr. Adrian sent her away, & Miss Duckworth had taken her when no one else wanted her, & she thought it her duty to stay. I think she has washed her hands of us, & will never come back — I feel I've done my duty anyhow. though in many way. I wish she had come back. Servant hunting is such a bore; & they'll all learn again, I suppose. However, there seem to be any number going at Lewes; I shall try for an elderly cook, & saw one most charming old lady, who was of

course, just engaged. I cant help being selfishly
rather glad that you may spend part of the winter
in London, especially with these raids going on.
We actually had a Zeppelin over the house here —
in broad daylight. We were away, but the
servants say the sound is unmistakable. & were in
a panic; Nelly hiding in the wood, & Lottie
running to the Woolers, when Mrs Wooler did
nothing but dash into her house & out again. But
it was so high up that no one saw it. Eleven
aeroplanes chased it — I cant help thinking it was
really English. NYPL
Success, though it was poisoned Pernel with sour milk, &
the house a Jewel were a great
looked rather cadaverous. Moore rang to us
every night. He is quite sorry, & much more human
than his followers, but one can see how they've copied him.
but he has much more vigour than they have —
Perhaps they no longer exist though. Karen thinks that
B.B. is going to cut her off her allowance, owing
to being a C.O, so they cant take Charleston
after all. Sydney W. comes next week. So
you'd better tell me anything about the house that
there are! all patents. What old Wives letters
you think necessary. We ought to
be walking up & down making our winter plans now-
adays. Moore has plans
but I suppose you dont want me as much as
I want you. Write. Take 2
do you milk?
B.

HAMILL 12/29/69

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Athenaeum
1916

Dearest,

Here are two decimal letters which Madge has sent me. I should rather like to keep Stella's – miserable though it is.

How are you? I have heard nothing since the appendicitis scare. I hope you are being sensible. I don't see much chance of meeting at present, I'm afraid. My affairs have taken to coming back so that I scarcely go out. However I think they are now in hand.

The only news is that our hens lay eggs with hard shells – what does it mean?

Yours JB.

Do tell me what Quentin brought for a present?

1916

Asheham,

Sunday.

Dearest,

Look, what promptitude I show! The thing is this — if you want me to do anything about the farm, you must send instructions at once, as we go away next Saturday. I've not seen Gunn, but I daresay he has written to you. As far as I can make out the farm has probably 6 bedrooms, a 3 sitting rooms. Nelly was shown over the house, & says its much darker & lower than this. It was I, with my usual spirit & intelligence, who suggested the plan to Roger; so I quick approve of your living here, & only stipulate for the usual right, in precedence of the legitimate brats. Gunn has laid by money, & has bought

a farm at the foot of Mount Cabrera, by Glenside, where he moves at the end of the month. I think it might be worth while for you to suggest taking that, if this one isn't feasible; he might let it for the war, I should think _ . If there don't do, what about Charleston? Mr. Stacey has a large farm there, & I've no doubt wants labour, though I know nothing of his views about C.Os. The house is furnished in a kind of way, I think. Limpsfield must be swarming with your friends; a Cheltenham with that solid breezy woman would drive me to drink at once.

NYPL

I thought Aunt Mary's death a positive stroke of genius _ I mean the discomfort & self sacrifice of it _ no trouble to anyone, & yet done out of life by the inhumanity of someone else _ I believe a woman motor driver was driving at 30 miles, some people said; but others said only 6 _ Of course Mr. Many wouldn't be able to get out of the way, if she were alone. I wrote

to Adeline with great difficulty, & like all my
monetary letters, it was a great success -
As she was perishing by degrees, I think
it's a great mercy for her, poor old creature;
though really one can hardly think of her as a
live human being.

Sidney was here with Roger, & was anxious
to know how the report of their leaving Gipsy
Hill had got about, as they've no idea of
doing so. After listening to our talk for
an hour or two he said "It's no use
my going to bed tonight. I shan't be able
to sleep after this excitement." When asked
what excitement, he said "The excitement
of seeing you all again." — which I thought
threw a ghastly light upon their evenings
at Gipsy Hill.

At this moment I am doing my duty by
having my family in law to spend the week
end - Bella & Herbert. Bella is dressed all in
black silk with long widow streamers - She
goes to Bexhill to run a Little Folks Childrens
hospital, where she meet Lady Egerton, Aunt
Stephen's sister, who seems to know all
about us. I spend my time in trying to see
which of Bella's eyes works, & she talks
incessantly, & is always making jokes, though

I gather she is really much depressed by the loss of her husband, who was practically the same thing as a cauliflower (he was a botanist) & he died in his bath.

We are going to

Gwel Marten,

NYPL Carbis Bay

next Monday for a fortnight. Margaret Davies has asked to come too, in order, partly, to discuss her future, which is very complicated owing to cancer &c; & I hope to upset all her plans, & attack her in every possible way, so as to keep things brisk. I believe it's the only way of keeping these ardent spirits from overwhelming one entirely.

Ka writes that her doctor wont let her go back to Corsica till the end of October. Leonard has suggested that she should take on his job at the Civil Liberty Society, as he thinks it's too great a bore to do himself; & Ka would suit it exactly. Kelly & Lottie are now very anxious to stay on, though I'd almost got a cook; we are getting a slopper.

Now answer at once, & do tell me about Otto: visit, & Bertie's letter. I will go to any house, before Saturday, & are my sagacity, as I should much like to have you. Ly B.

HAMILL 12/22/69